

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 15 as follows:

~~First~~ A first invention provides a jointing member having: a grommet and a pin, wherein the grommet includes a flange portion and a leg portion capable of being opened, in which an insertion hole is formed from a center of the flange portion to an inner portion of the leg portion, and an engagement nail portion is formed at an inner surface of the leg portion, and the pin includes a head portion and a shaft portion to be inserted into the insertion hole, in which an engagement surface and a lock surface each engaging with the engagement nails portions are formed at the shaft portion.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 as follows:

In ~~a~~ second invention, in a state where the engagement nail portion formed at the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed at the shaft portion of the pin, the pin is movable in its drawing out direction within the insertion hole of the grommet.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 6 as follows:

In ~~a~~ third invention, the engagement nail portion formed at the leg portion of the grommet engages with the lock surface formed at the leg portion of the shaft portion as the engagement nail portion moves along the lock surface while maintaining the opened state of the leg portion of the grommet.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 12 as follows:

In ~~a~~ fourth invention, in a state where the engagement nail portion formed at the leg portion of the grommet engages with the engagement surface formed at the shaft portion of the pin, a tip end of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17 as follows:

According to the first invention, when the shaft portion of the pin is inserted into the insertion hole of the grommet to engage the engagement nail portion formed at the leg portion of the grommet with the engagement surface formed at the shaft portion of the pin, the leg portion of the grommet opens outward. Thus, the panel members are jointed and fixed to each other. In this state, when an unexpected external force is applied to the tip end

of the shaft portion of the pin and the pin is pushed in its drawing out direction, the engagement nail portion engages with the lock surface formed at the shaft portion of the pin. Thus, such a matter can be prevented effectively from occurring that the jointing member itself disengages from the attachment holes of the panel member or the pin restores to a provisionally engaged state even if the jointing member itself does not disengage. As a result, the jointed and fixed state between the panel members can be obtained with reliability.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10 as follows:

According to the second invention, when an unexpected external force is applied to the tip end of the shaft portion of the pin in a state where the panel members are jointed and fixed to each other, that is, a state where the engagement nail portion engages with the engagement surface, the pin moves in its drawing out direction within the insertion hole of the grommet. Thus, an impact energy due to the unexpected external force can be absorbed effectively. Further, at the time of removing the jointing member which joints and fixes the panel members, since the tip end of the disengaging jig can be inserted with a small force between the head portion of the pin and the flange portion of the grommet, the head portion and the flange portion are prevented from being damaged. Further, the jointing member itself can be restored to a provisionally engaged state by drawing out the grommet from the pin. According to the third invention, the leg portion of the grommet can be kept in the opened state even in a state where the engagement nail portion engages with the lock surface. Thus, even if an unexpected external force is applied, the jointing member itself does not move out of the attachment holes of the panel members. According to the fourth invention, in a state where the panel members are jointed and fixed to each other, that is, a state where the engagement nail portion engages with the engagement surface, the tip end of the shaft portion of the pin is buried within the insertion hole of the grommet. Therefore, an unexpected external force is hardly applied.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13 as follows:

~~Fourth~~ A fourth invention provides a jointing member having: a grommet and a pin, wherein the grommet includes a flange portion and a leg portion capable of being opened, in which an insertion hole is formed from a center of the flange portion to an inner portion of the leg portion, and an engagement nail portion is formed at an inner surface of the leg portion, the pin includes a head portion and a shaft portion to be inserted into the insertion hole, in which an engagement surface and a lock surface each engaging with the engagement

nails portions are formed at the shaft portion, the flange portion of the grommet has a large-diameter portion of the insertion hole, an engagement hole in a position where a bottom portion of the large-diameter portion is adjacent, and an extending portion which is extended to form a pin hole portion whose diameter is small than that of the large-diameter portion in a free state on a side of a tip where it is far from the flange portion, the shaft portion has an engagement surface which holds the engagement nail portion displaced to a circumference direction to keep the flange portion of the grommet in an opened state, in a state that the pin is incorporated into the grommet, in parallel with a center line of the shaft portion and in a direction of the center line of the shaft portion for a predetermined length, and has a lock surface which protrude in a circumference direction in a tip of the shaft portion so as to prevent the engagement nail portion from falling away from the engagement surface to shift to a state that a diameter of the leg portion become small, and the engagement nail portion of the grommet, and the engagement surface of the pin and lock surface are relatively provided in a shaft direction at a position where the grommet and the pin enable to slide for a predetermined distance in a state that the grommet and the pin are incorporated to be the leg portion opened. Thus, since the extending portion is provided, a protrusion length of the shaft portion of the pin is shortened. Therefore, the grommet and the pin can be prevented from being falsely disengaged.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 25 as follows:

In a fifth invention, the tip of the shaft portion of the pin, which is provided with the lock surface, is surrounded with the extending portion of each of leg portions of the grommet in a state that the grommet and the pin are incorporated to be the leg portions opened, and is inside the tip hole portion of the grommet.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6 as follows:

In a sixth invention, the predetermined distance that the grommet and the pin enable to slide is 0.5 mm to 2 mm. Therefore, in order to disengage the pin, it is possible to hitch with a tip of a finger or a tip of a slotted screw driver, as well as it is possible to design the jointing member to be compact in the entire length.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16 as follows:

As shown in Figs. 2A and 2B, in the grommet 1, an insertion hole 7 to insert the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 therein is formed from a center of the flange portion 3 to an inner

portion of the leg portion 4. The leg portion 4 is divided into plural pieces through four slits 8 so that the pieces can be opened outward. An engagement nail portion 9 which engages with a engagement surface 14 and a lock surface 15 of the pin 2 described later is formed at the inner surface of an expanded tip end side of each of the divided leg pieces 4a. A plurality of tool insertion grooves 10 extending in the radial direction are formed on the upper surface of the flange portion 3. A projection 11 for provisional engagement is formed at the hole edge on the flange portion 3 side of each of the slits 8. An extending portion 22 is provided to be extended to form a pin hole portion 21 at the tip of the leg portion 4.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 23 as follows:

In this embodiment, when the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is inserted into the insertion hole 7 of the grommet 1, the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is inserted until the head portion 5 of the pin 2 abuts against the flange portion 3 of the grommet 1 so that the aforesaid engagement nail portion 9 is engaged with the engagement surface 14 formed at the shaft portion 6 and the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is buried within the insertion hole 7. The pin 2 can move in a drawing out direction within the insertion hole 7 of the grommet 1 in a state where the engagement nail portion 9 engages with the engagement surface 14.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 23 as follows:

After the pin 2 is provisionally engaged, the leg portion 4 of the grommet 1 is attached to attachment holes H1, H2 which are previously perforated at the two panel members P1, P2, and the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is completely pushed within the insertion hole 7 until the head portion 5 of the pin 2 abuts against the flange portion 3 of the grommet 1. Then, as shown in Fig. 5, the engagement nail portion 9 formed at the inner surface of each of the respective divided leg pieces 4a engages with the engagement surface 14 of the pin 2 and simultaneously each of the respective divided leg pieces 4a is opened outward. Thus, the two panel members P1, P2 are jointed and fixed to each other from one direction by one-touch operation.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 11 as follows:

In the jointed and fixed state of the panel members P1, P2, since the head portion 5 of the pin 2 is restricted to abut against the flange portion 3 of the grommet 1, the engagement nail portion 9 necessarily engage engages with the engagement surface 14. In this state,

although the engagement nail portion 9 is not engaged with the lock surface 15, the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is allowed to move in its drawing out direction. Therefore, when the shaft portion 6 moves in its drawing out direction, the engagement nail portion 9 engages with the lock surface 15 for the first time. At the time of disengaging the jointing member by which the panel members P1, P2 are jointed and fixed to each other, since the shaft portion 6 is movable as described above, the tip end of a disengaging jig can be inserted with a small force between the head portion 5 of the pin 2 and the flange portion 3 of the grommet 1. Thus, it is not necessary to pend pound on the disengaging jig or forcedly scoop out in order to insert the disengaging jig between the head portion 5 and the flange portion 3, so that the head portion 5 and the flange portion 3 are prevented from being damaged. Further, the joining member itself can be restored to the provisionally engaged state by drawing out the grommet 1 from the pin 2.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 9 as follows:

Moreover, in the state where the engagement nail portion 9 engages with the engagement surface 14, the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is buried within the insertion hole 7 of the grommet 1 and the tip does not protrude outward from the tip end edges of the respective divided leg pieces 4a. Therefore, such a matter can be prevented from occurring that a worker erroneously pushes the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 while the worker performs another procedure or the corner portion of another part is abutted against the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2. Accordingly, there does not arise such a fear of the conventional technique that it is required to perform the jointing and fixing procedure of the panel members P1, P2 again or the panel members may be transferred to the next procedure without being noticed that the jointed and fixed state of the panel members is cancelled. Further, according to the embodiment, in the case that the angle of the corner portion of the other part is about 160 degrees or more, the corner portion merely abuts against the tip end edges of the respective divided leg pieces 4a being opened but does not abut

against the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 buried within the insertion hole 7.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 7 as follows:

If the tip end of the shaft portion 6 of the pin 2 is pushed by some reason and the pin 2 moves in its drawing out direction within the insertion hole 7, as shown in Fig. 6, the engagement nail portion 9 of each of the respective divided leg pieces 4a engages with the lock surface 15 while maintaining the opened state of the respective divided leg pieces 4a of the grommet 1. Thus, the pin 2 is surely prevented from being drawn out while effectively absorbing an impact energy due to unexpected external force applied to the pin. As a result, there is no fear that the jointing member itself disengages from the attachment holes H1, H2 of the panel members P1, P2 or the pin 2 restores to the provisionally engaged state even if the jointing member itself does not disengage.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 21 as follows:

In this case, since the engagement nail portion 9 is biased to the engagement surface 14 due to the elastic force of the leg portion 4, the engagement nail portion 9 applies a friction force with respect to the movement of the pin 2 and the friction force which serves as a resistance force for preventing the movement of the pin. Thus, when an unexpected external force acts on the tip end of the pin 2, an impact energy due to the external force is converted into a kinetic energy of the pin 2, whereby the external force forces the pin 2 to move against the resistance force. Therefore, in the embodiment, the kinetic energy is consumed in accordance with the movement of the pin 2, so that the external force itself can be attenuated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 9 as follows:

Further, since the pin 2 can move while maintaining the engaged state between the engagement nail portion 9 and the engagement surface 14, the engagement nail portion 9

abuts against the lock surface 15 after the moving speed of the pin 2 reduced. At the time of being abutted, the kinetic energy of the pin 2 applied from the external force is sufficiently attenuated so that the speed of the pin at this time is sufficiently reduced. Thus, even if an engagement area between the engagement nail portion 9 and the lock surface 15 is small at the time of the abutment, the engagement nail portion 9 never moves over the lock surface 15.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 20 as follows:

As a result, the engagement area between the engagement nail portion 9 and the lock surface 15 can be made small. Consequently, in a procedure of removing the jointing member, the pin 2 and the grommet 1 can be easily restored to the provisionally engaged state like the conventional technique by inserting a disengaging tool such as a slotted screw driver between the head portion 5 of the pin 2 and the tool insertion groove 10 and scooping out therebetween.